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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/039,892	10/26/2001	Howard E. Preissman	PALX-003DIV	8727
21394	7590	02/08/2006	EXAMINER	
ARTHROCARE CORPORATION 680 VAQUEROS AVENUE SUNNYVALE, CA 94085-3523			PHILOGENE, PEDRO	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		3733		

DATE MAILED: 02/08/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/039,892	PREISSMAN, HOWARD E.
	Examiner Pedro Philogene	Art Unit 3733

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12/21/05.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-4, 15-42 and 52-54 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 54 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-4, 15-23, 25-42, 52 and 53 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 24 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12/21/05 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4,15-18, 40-42,52,53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Eykmann et al. (5,647,856).

With respect to the above claims Eykmann et al disclose a high pressure applicator for driving the delivery of a flowable tissue implant material, comprising a first column (1,2) having inner wall, an outer wall, a first end and second end having an orifice (23) for delivering implant material therethrough, and an intermediate section, as best seen in fig.1, between the first and second end, the first column further comprising an introduction section commencing at the first end and adapted to hold the implant material, the introduction section having a different size than the intermediate section; as best seen in FIGS.1-4; a second column (4), the second column being drivable with

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respect to the first column to generate a pressure within the first column; and a handle (5) integrally attached to the second column , the introduction section is sized to facilitate purging of air trapped in the implant material; at least one O-ring (29) mounted to an end portion of the second column (4) and interfacing with the inner wall of the second column (2); wherein the second column comprises a wall which is drivably engageable with one of the inner and outer walls; threading (9) on at least a portion of the inner wall of the first column , wherein the wall of the second column (4) is an external wall comprising threading (10) engageable with the the threading (9)on at least a portion of the inner wall.

As to claims 40-42, the applicator of Eykmann et al is capable of generating such pressures a, as claimed, since the structure of Eykmann et al is fully functionally identical to the applicator as claimed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 20-23, 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eykmann et al. (5,647,856) in view of Perler (4,863,072).

With respect to the above claims, it is noted that Eykmann et al teach all the limitations, Except for handle on the integrally formed on the first column and threading covering only a portion of the second column and an end portion of the second portion

relatively smooth and wherein the smooth end portion comprises a reduced diameter section having an outside diameter less than an inside diameter of the threads on the inner wall, and an enlarged section which closely fits with the substantially smooth inner wall to form pressure seal therewith; as claimed by applicant. However, in a similar art, Perler evidences the use of an applicator with such characteristics, as claimed by applicant, to allow the applicator to operate conveniently using one hand.

Therefore, given the teaching of Perler, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate those structures in the device of Eykmann et al, as taught by Perler to allow the applicator to operate conveniently using one hand.

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eykmann et al. (5,647,856) in view of Phillips (4,032,118).

With respect to claim 19, it is noted that Eykman teaches all the limitations, except for the at least one sealing element comprises a Teflon Wrap, as claimed by applicant. However, in a similar art, Phillips teaches a sealing means with Teflon wrap to enhance the seal between two components.

Therefore, given the teaching of Phillips, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the Teflon wrap of Phillips to enhance the seal between the first and the second columns.

Allowable Subject Matter

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Claim 24 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 54 is allowed.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see Remark, filed 12/21/05, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-4,15-18,20-23,25-27,38-42 under 102 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Eykmann et al.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

6,033,105 3-2000 Barker et al.

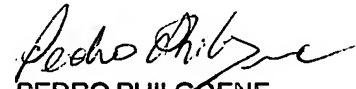
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pedro Philogene whose telephone number is (571) 272-4716. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 6:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eduardo Robert can be reached on (571) 272 - 4719. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Pedro Philogene
February 03, 2005


PEDRO PHILGENE
PRIMARY EXAMINER